

Introduction to the Sciences of Hadith (Course Outline)

Summary

The Sciences of *Hadith* (pl. *Ahadith*) in the traditional realm of Islamic Scholarship are many diverse sciences which can be classified into one, these sciences are all pertaining to one thing and one thing alone namely the safeguarding and authenticity of religious scripture; whilst the *hadith* are not part of the *Qur'an* according to all classical schools of Islamic theology- they carry the same weight.

The sciences of *Hadith* serve as unique because they highlight that whilst others attempt to gather as much information about and from their Prophetic figures as possible, the Muslims were concerned with minute details such as compiling as much information about people who merely transmitted the statements of and about their Prophetic figures to ensure a degree of rigour in authenticating religion.

Aims and Objectives:

The course aims to introduce to the community several details about the sciences of *Ahadith* namely a break down as to what these varying independent sciences are, what their main *ghayah* or objective is and what books are written in regards to these sciences. Particularly looking at the evolution and development of sciences in both the traditional Islamic seminaries, in addition to the introduction of new ideas as a result of the Muslim World's encounter with the post-enlightenment West and the challenges and questions such an encounter forced the Muslim World to address within these sciences.

Particular emphasis will be placed upon the converging and diverging methodologies of the Sunni Schools and the Twelver Shi'i school in the field of Hadith Sciences.

By the end of the course, a student would ideally be familiar with the basics of Hadith Sciences and would have a firm enough grasp of some of the more intermediate discussions in the field, they would also be able to distinguish between the different sciences and understand why the views of our 'Ulema in this area can never be reduced or seen as monolithic.

Course Outline: Dr Seyed Ammar Nakhjavani

5 Sessions

Session 1: The History of Ahadith

1. The Message: The film and beginning the hadith debates
2. Linguistic breakdowns and technical definitions of *Hadith*
3. The Prophet Muhammad's concern with gathering and preserving narrations
4. Why Arabia was ideal for such a science to have organically developed
5. The Systematic Ban on Hadith by the Saqeefa Dynasty
6. The Imams (A) concern with preserving Ahadith in such a period

Session 2: Main Hadith Sources amongst the Muslim Schools

1. Lifting the Ban
2. The Muwatta
3. The Musannaf Literature
4. The Sihah Sittah
5. Hakim al-Naysaburi's Mustadrak

Session 3: The Imamiyyah and their efforts in Hadith

1. The 400 Usual
2. Kitab al-Saqifa (The Book of Sulaym b. Qays al-Hilali)
3. Basa'ir al-Darajat and al-Mahasin
4. Masa'il 'Ali b. A'far
5. The Four Books

Session 4: The Science of Rijal

1. The Science of Riyaal as is recorded earliest (Sunni-Shi'a pioneering debate)
2. Early Sunni Riyaaliyoon
3. The Companions of the Imams involved in Riyaal
4. The Main Sunni Sources of 'Ilm al-Riyaal
5. The Main Shia Sources of 'Ilm al-Riyaal
6. The Ibn al-Ghada'iri Debate

The Science of Riwayah and the Science of Dirayah

1. Do the Sciences even differ?
2. Who first authored books in this field?
3. Why the late start for the Imamiyyah in this field?
4. Basic Terms and Categories of the Science
5. The Four-Tier System of Ibn Tawus/Allamah Hilli and the Akhbari rejection
6. What was used before the Four-Tier System?
7. Moving beyond the four-tier system and the ability to produce more convenient classifications

Session 5: The Salafi Era and Its Effect on Sunni Hadith Sciences

1. Muhammad Abduh and Rashid Rida and the effects of Modernity in Hadith Rejection
2. The Sunni Revivalist Al-Ghumari and his condemning the Nasibi tendencies of Early Ahl al-Hadith
3. Al-Albani and his attempt to cleanse the Sunni World of Taqleed in Hadith
4. Jamal al-Banna in Modern Egypt and Rejection of the Sahihayn

Contemporary Debates in 'Ilm al-Riyaal

1. The Early Qummi: Strict and Pious Rijaliyon or paranoid puritans with a deficient 'Aqeedah (*Taqseer*)?
2. Hisham b. Al-Hakam and Hisham b. Salim al-Jawaliqi as Anthropomorphists?
3. Sahl b. Ziyad, *Hal Amruhu Sahl am Sa'ab?* (An easy case or difficult one)
4. The Khoei School of Rijal and It's Development: Towards Purification of our Literature
5. The Revival of Akhbarism in a Sophisticated Guise: The School of Mashhad
6. The Theological Defence of High Imamology in Rijal: The New Approach of Muhammad al-Sanad
7. Between *Matn* Criticism and *Isnad* Criticism: The Uber-strict Methodology of Haider Hobbullah in Contemporary Qom
8. Sayyed Kamal al-Hayderi: Moving from 'Uloom al-Hadith to the Qur'anic Approach to Ahadith

Session 8: The Hatred of Amir al-Mo'mineen in the Science of Hadith

1. How Rijal Rules are broken to accommodate hatred of Imam 'Ali
2. How Dirayah classifications are broken to accommodate such hatred
3. How Sahaba can be weakened due to love for Imam 'Ali
4. Why the Imams recommended doing the opposite of the Opponents as a result of the above discussions.
5. Contemporary Wahabi 'Ulema and their tendencies against Imam 'Ali in the Sciences of Hadith.